(c) whether futures trading has any impact on the spot prices of essential commodities; and

(d) whether there is any connection between futures trading and the rise of prices of essential commodities witnessed recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Futures trading in essential commodities is subject to various regulatory measures such as limit on open position, margins, limit on daily price variations etc. Some of the essential commodities such as wheat, chana dal and urad dal are subject to additional margins of 10%, 5% and 10% respectively on the long positions.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Price levels of various commodities are determined on the basis of fundamental factors linked to demand and supply positions. Futures trading, *inter-alia,* helps in reducing volatility in the movement of prices of a traded commodity.

(d) The reasons for the recent rise in prices of essential commodities are mainly shortfall in domestic supplies relative to demand and hardening of international prices.

Proposals of Maharashtra for environmental clearance

1232. SHRI SANJAYRAUT Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of proposals submitted by Maharashtra Government related to environment issues to Central Government including necessary assistance and clearance to the environmental projects of Maharashtra since last two years; and

(b) the details of pending proposals submitted by Maharashtra Government with his Ministry by indicating the reasons behind the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The details of the projects received from the Government of Maharashtra during last two years along with the reasons for delay in the clearance in the case of pending proposals are given in the Statement.

Statement

The details of the projects received from the Maharashtra Government during last two years

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Reasons for delay
	Cleared/Sanctioned Projects	
1.	1040 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine Uran Expansion Project at Uran, Distt. Raigarh by Maharashtra State Electricity Board	Not applicable
2.	1X500 MW Coal based Expansion Project at Khperkheda Thermal Power Station, Distt. Nagpur by M/s. Maharashtra Power Generation Company Ltd.	-do-
3.	Varangaon Talwel Gat Parisar Sinchan Yojana in Distt. Jalgaon by Tapi Irrigation Development Co.	-do-
4.	Clearance of Mihan Airport at Nagpur	-do-
5.	Beautification of Chaitya Bhumi, Mahem, Dadar by Urban Development of Maharashtra Government	-do
6.	Two Offshore container berths and development of containers Terminal on BOT by Mumbai Port Trust Terminal	-do-
7.	Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link Project by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation	-do
8.	Developing of Housing Scheme in CRZ area by MHADA	-do-
9.	Development of passenger water transport on the West Coast of Mumbai by Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation	-do-

1	2	3
10.	Construction of 5.784 Km. of State Highway No. 26 (Ring Road of Nagpur City) by PWD, Govt, of Maharashtra.	-do-
11.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Roha, Raigad.	-do-
12.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Thane, Belapur.	-do-
13.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Lote Prashuram.	-do-
14.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Patalganga.	-do-
15.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Badlapur.	-do-
16.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Domblivili.	-do-
17.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Mahad.	-do-
18.	Common Effluent Treatment Plant, Tarapur.	-do-
	Pending Proposals	
19.	Proposed complex for MHADA on land bearing Sy. No. 7 & 8 in Bandra.	Additional information sought is yet to be received.
20.	Proposal for Slum Rehabilitation Scheme on plot No. 139 to 142 and 143 (pt) of Backbay Reclamation Scheme, Colaba Division.	-do-
21.	Clearance for NH-16, Maharashtra Portion Km. 230.69 to 288.00 (AF location 0.00 to km. 57.31	-do-
22.	Navi Mumbai Special Economic Zone, Raigad, Navi Mumbai by NMSEZ Development Co. Pvt. Ltd.	-do-
23.	Residential and Commercial Project at Chembur.	-do-
24.	Revised Waghur River Project, Jalgaon	-do-

1	2	3
25.	Redevelopment of Transit Tenements and housing at Survey No. 48 at Chembur	Appraisal by the Expert Committee is awaited.
26.	Redevelopment of Transit Camps at Sy. No. 501, near Dharasi BEST bus depot	-do-
27.	Commercial Building at Commercial Zone at Bandra (West)	-do-
28.	Proposed rehabilitation scheme for redevelopment of transit tenements on Plot No. 27-C, Block VI of Cuffee Parade, Colaba	-do-
29.	Rehabilitation Scheme for Gazdar Bandh Hutments Dwellers at CTS No. 6A Pt, Malwani, Malad (W).	-do- (W)
30.	Construction of commercial complex named "Empire Mall" at Chikhalthana, MIDC Distt. Aurangabad	-do-
31.	Project proposal for pollution abatement work for Wai town along River Krishna	Inadequate Tenth Plan Outlay.
32.	Project proposal for pollution abatement work for Pandharpurtown along River Bhima	-do-
33.	Project proposal for pollution abatement work for Prakasha Town along River Tapi	-do-
34.	Project proposal for pollution abatement work for Paithan Town along River Godavari	-do-- do-
35.	Project proposal for pollution abatement work for Nawapur Town along River Rangawali	-do-

Children with birth defects due to environmental degradation

1233. SHRI PENUMALLIMADHU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is noted in a seminar that about eight lakh children are